

Stop the War in Gaza too!

by our Arab Affairs
correspondent

The guns have fallen silent in south Lebanon. A truce based on the 2006 agreement that ended the last war began this week following over a year of fighting between the Israeli aggressors and Hezbollah, the Lebanese resistance movement drawn from the Shia Muslim community in southern Lebanon. The truce, brokered by the Americans with French assistance, calls for the withdrawal of all Israeli troops and resistance fighters from southern Lebanon. Some 5,000 more regular Lebanese army troops will bolster the existing UN peace-keeping force, and the Americans will join the cease-fire monitoring process. And as thousands of Lebanese civilians pack the roads south to return to what's left of their homes shattered by the fighting Hezbollah says it's their victory not Israel's. The Israelis have failed to crush the Lebanese resistance or set up a new Zionist "buffer-zone" in southern Lebanon.

Now the genocidal war in Gaza must end. The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas that runs the Gaza Strip says it's "committed to co-operating with any effort to reach a ceasefire in Gaza". Hamas says an agreement must end the war, pull Israeli forces out of Gaza, return displaced Palestinians to their



• Hezbollah supporters welcoming the news

homes, and achieve a deal that would see the Israeli prisoners held in the beleaguered Palestinian enclave exchanged for Palestinian prisoners languishing in Israeli jails.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said the movement "appreciates" Hezbollah's right to strike a deal protecting its people, adding that it is ready to reach a ceasefire with Israel to stop the fighting in Gaza. Abu Zuhri blamed the failure to reach a ceasefire in Gaza on Netanyahu, who has repeatedly accused Hamas of foiling the alleged efforts of the Zionists to end the fighting. "Hamas showed high flexibility to reach an agreement and it is still committed to that position and is interested in reaching an agreement that ends the war in Gaza," he said.

The ceasefire has certainly shattered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's illusion of reshaping the Middle East by force. And the deal has been greeted with relief in Lebanon, where thousands of people are making their way home to the

south, defying a warning from the Israeli military to stay away from previously evacuated areas. Residents returning to the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh hailed Hezbollah's victory as they returned to their homes. Some headed straight to the place where Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was killed in an Israeli air-raid in September.

"The enemy's acceptance of the agreement with Lebanon without fulfilling the conditions it set is an important milestone in shattering Netanyahu's illusions of changing the map of the Middle East by force," Hamas said. Netanyahu's "illusions of

defeating the Resistance forces or disarming them" have been sent to oblivion.

This was also the view in

Tehran. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ismail Baqaei welcomed the news of the end of Israeli aggression in Lebanon while stressing the firm support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Lebanese government, nation and resistance forces.

"The ceasefire agreement which went into effect today is good news. However, the real question that is at the root of all of Israel's conflicts in the region, is the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories," was how they put it in this week's *Zo Hederech* (This is the Way). Now, the war in Gaza must come to an end quickly, and an agreement must be reached in which all the hostages are released, and Israel leaves the Gaza Strip permanently. The Israeli occupation over the Palestinian people must come to an end and the two-states solution needs to be negotiated and implemented. Israel needs to become a state where all citizens enjoy full equality."

FUND

The fighting fund shot up this week with £805 raised at our October revolution celebration and a further £200, including £75 from a Dagenham supporter, which arrived too late to be added to that tally. It all came to £1,005. The running total now stands at £2,167. Our target is £3,500 by the end of November.

Millions upon millions of people are on the march demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza and justice for the Palestinians. Workers are mobilising against the austerity regime. More and more voices are being raised against NATO's proxy war against Russia. But the careerists' and defeatists' only ambition is to get on the union gravy train and enrich themselves. They hold the fight back, but they can't stop it.

Resistance is growing on the street and the *New Worker* is part of that struggle. Help us keep it going. Your contribution, big or small, counts. Join us in the fight for peace and socialism by sending in your donations to the *New Worker* fighting fund. All donations help keep our presses rolling. Please send yours to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the 'New Worker'.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here:
<http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

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The *New Worker* will soon be taking its traditional fortnightly winter break.

The last issue of the Old Year will be published on Friday 20th December.

The first issue of the New Year will come out on Friday 10th January.

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

When the shooting stops...

Hezbollah has forced Israel to cease-fire – but not on Zionist terms. The Lebanese resistance movement has achieved a strategic success by thwarting the Zionist plans to drive the resistance and the UN peace-keeping force out of southern Lebanon and replace it with an Israeli-occupied “buffer zone” to pave the way for annexation.

Many towns in Lebanon are now in ruins. The Israelis pounded Beirut and the other towns and cities of the Lebanon for over a year forcing hundreds of thousands of civilians to abandon their homes in waves of terror bombing designed to break the morale of the Arab resistance. But they failed. They themselves paid a heavy price for their aggression. Some 300,000 Israelis fled to safety out of the range of the drones and missiles of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance. Over 100 Zionist settlements in northern Israel were evacuated. The “Generals’ Plan” for Gaza has been put on hold. The dream of a “Greater Israel” died in the fields of southern Lebanon.

After the imperialist inspired “Arab Spring” swept across the Arab world, destabilising countries one by one and paving the way for normalisation with Israel, came the imperialist attempt to “regime change” Syria. Terror gangs armed and funded by the Americans and their NATO allies fermented sectarian violence and civil war in an attempt to overthrow the Baathist-led government in Damascus. The Western media went into top gear to justify imperialist intervention, spreading lies throughout Europe and the USA while the Arab world became a battleground for one of the most ruthless propaganda wars in modern history. This was the first conflict to weaponise social media, exploiting it to deepen the divide between the Shia and Sunni Muslim communities and to fracture the unity between the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance.

Syria, the lifeline of the resistance’s weapons pipeline, was targeted for destruction. But the Syrians closed ranks around their popular front government to beat back the sectarian militias and with the help of Russian peace-keepers drove the terror gangs and their Western military advisors out of most of the country. But the fabricated narrative of “Hezbollah’s crimes in Syria”, heavily propagated by the feudal Arab media, continues to serve as a tool to attack Hezbollah and the entire Axis of Resistance to this day.

Although the guns fall silent in Lebanon the Yemeni blockade continues and the Palestinians fight on. They have no other choice. The Israelis are continuing to pursue their genocidal war against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip that has now become a wilderness of rubble and ruins. The Zionists still dream of driving all the Palestinian Arabs out to seize their land and make room for more Zionist settlements.

Nevertheless, the ceasefire agreement in Lebanon could pave the way for a similar agreement in Gaza – but only if there’s mass pressure in the Western world to force the imperialist leaders to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs. Over the last 14 months millions in Britain have rallied to demand justice for the Palestinians. It’s already having an effect on the people in the corridors of power. We must keep up the momentum for as long as it takes. If Starmer will not speak up for the people living through a genocide in Gaza and under siege in the West Bank, then we absolutely must continue to raise our voices for them.

Not ‘soft’ just pragmatic

Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who just wrapped up his China visit last month, was quizzed over the UK’s China strategy by MPs when he spoke to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee while the Labour government is being slammed for “going soft on China”.

China–UK relations have experienced twists and turns in the last few years, mainly because of the hostile attitude toward China adopted by the previous governments. The Boris Johnson government labelled China “a great challenge”, the Liz Truss government branded China “the largest threat” and Rishi Sunak viewed China as a “systematic challenge”. These changing perceptions of China underlined the fact that these Conservative governments had abandoned a rational and pragmatic policy orientation regarding China. China–UK relations were thus jeopardised in the fields such as diplomacy, economy and people-to-people exchanges.

At the same time the British government, despite its tough approach toward China, has failed to revive the UK’s past glorious status. Instead the country has been plunged into a number of dilemmas such as Brexit, the pandemic and the Ukraine crisis.

Since the new Labour government, formed in July under the leadership of Keir Starmer, came into office, it has intended to reassess and potentially recalibrate its relations with Beijing.

Lammy’s visit, only the second time in six years, was seen as the first sign of a thaw in China–UK relations. Starmer also said that he wanted a strong and durable relationship with China.

Li Guanjie, a research fellow with the Shanghai Academy of Global Governance & Area Studies at the Shanghai International Studies University, said that the Labour government’s China stance does not fundamentally differ from that of the previous Conservative governments, but only adds an engagement perspective, which, however, should not be called “being soft”.

Noises regarding China–UK relations in the UK’s political realm still exist. Some British MPs reportedly raised concerns over the recent sentencing of the 45 Hong Kong separatists found guilty of subversion. Some even urged the UK government to introduce legislation to prevent goods allegedly made with “forced labour” in China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, as the USA did.

Indeed, the British position on matters relating to China’s core interests is a barometer with which we measure the UK’s China policy. These matters often affect future China–UK relations, especially when the relations could be easily undermined by the subjective and sensationalised understanding of China. In October when pressed by Sunak, Starmer said the Chinese mainland’s drills around the island of Taiwan were “not conducive

to peace”. He also claimed that releasing the infamous Hong Kong secessionist, Jimmy Lai, is a “priority” for his government. Just a few days ago, a *Financial Times* article claimed that the “Jimmy Lai case tests red lines of UK–China relations”.

Currently, the domestic opinion of China in the UK is still diverse and contradictory. Judging from the pressure faced by the Starmer government, it’s clear that prejudice and unwarranted concerns against China in the UK still have an impact. How to withstand the pressures, achieve an accurate assessment of China–UK relations, get rid of the serious negative effects of pan-politicisation in recent years, truly recognise the common interests and co-operation needs between China and the UK and create a favourable atmosphere for co-operation should be the goal pursued by the UK in adjusting its China policy.

If the overall China policy of the Starmer government is hijacked by anti-China voices and the government is forced to take a tough and hostile approach toward China, that would be a tragedy for British politics and the UK’s China policy.

China and the UK do not see eye to eye on everything. But it does not mean they cannot engage and co-operate with each other in a pragmatic way. It tests the wisdom of the UK to have a sophisticated approach to be effective in dealing with China.

Global Times



Workers' Notes

Palestinians need your support

by New Worker correspondent

Thousands of workers and students across the country in their workplaces, colleges, and communities, were demanding an immediate ceasefire and an end to Britain's complicity in Israel's crimes this week. And the week of action in solidarity with Palestine ended on Friday with an international day of solidarity that was endorsed by the TUC and Unison.

The Palestinians need the solidarity of trade union members more than ever. "We are now over 400 days since Israel launched what the International Court of Justice has ruled to be a plausible case of genocide that has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, displaced over two-million and destroyed all of Gaza's civil infrastructure – schools, hospitals and universities," says Ben Jamal, director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

"It is a genocide that is not diminishing in intensity, with Israel in the past few weeks embarking on the ethnic cleansing of all of the North of Gaza placing everyone still there, according to then UN, at risk of being killed.

"This week Save the Children released its latest report that carried the shocking fact that 130,000 children have been left without access to food and water in the North of Gaza since early October, as a result of Israel sealing the area and refusing access of aid. It also detailed that 40 per cent of those killed in Gaza since October 2023 are children, the majority aged 5–9.

"So right, now Palestinians need the solidarity of trade union members more than ever. What Palestinians demand of us to show meaningful solidarity is unchanged. It was expressed clearly by Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the Palestinian-led BDS movement at PSC's recent trade union

Celebrating Red October!

by New Worker correspondent

Comrades and friends braved the weather on Saturday to mark the Russian revolution that was, undoubtedly, the greatest event in the 20th Century. Representatives from solidarity movements and members of the Chinese embassy gathered at the Party Centre to salute the Bolsheviks that established the first workers and peasants' republic in November 1917.

Once again the *New Worker* print shop was transformed for a bar and buffet that paused only for the formal part of the social opened by Peter Hendy.

NCP leader Andy Brooks paid tribute to the achievements of the

Soviet Union in the 20th Century. Other speakers included Keith Bennett from the Friends of Socialist China, Ian Donovan from the Consistent Democrats, British Posadist Marie Lynam and Theo Russell from the International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity movement. Peter Hendy read out a message from Dermot Hudson of the Korean Friendship Association (KFA) who could not join us on the night.

Although the USSR and the people's democracies of eastern Europe are no more, the spirit of 1917 lives on in China, Cuba, Democratic Korea, Vietnam and Laos, and in the hearts of communists throughout the world, a point stressed during the fighting fund appeal that raised £805 for the *New Worker*!



• Andy Brooks makes a point

conference"

He said simply: "What we ask of you is you do us no harm. This means you must campaign to end the complicity of your government which continues to arm Israel and offer it military and political support. Your public bodies – the universities and local government pension schemes which continue to invest in companies which support Israel's oppression – and those companies and corporations themselves, like Barclays Bank, which invests in and provides financial services to companies arming Israel. The TUC support for the workplace day of action is important. As Israel continues to massacre Palestinians including children we need not just to be demonstrating in the streets but taking into every workplace the demand for action to end all of UK complicity with these crimes."

Save ScotRail ticket offices

by New Worker correspondent

The RMT transport union is campaigning against plans by Scottish Government owned ScotRail to reduce ticket office hours at 101 of its 143 staffed stations.

These proposals would see

the majority of ScotRail ticket offices closed for parts of the day they are currently open. The company has commenced a 12-week internal staff consultation on the proposals that ends in February 2025.

Under these proposals, the overall weekly hours at the affected stations would reduce by a third. This means weekly ticket office hours across the ScotRail network would reduce by around 2,800 hours per week.

ScotRail and the Scottish Government are trying to spin these proposals as though it will represent an improvement for passengers, but the converse is true. If ScotRail proceeds with these cuts to ticket offices, it will worsen passenger service, safety and accessibility, and have a detrimental impact on passengers' experience of the ScotRail network.

The Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop MSP confirmed that the Scottish Government's permission was required for ScotRail to progress these proposals. This means that the Scottish Government can also instruct ScotRail to scrap these plans at any time.

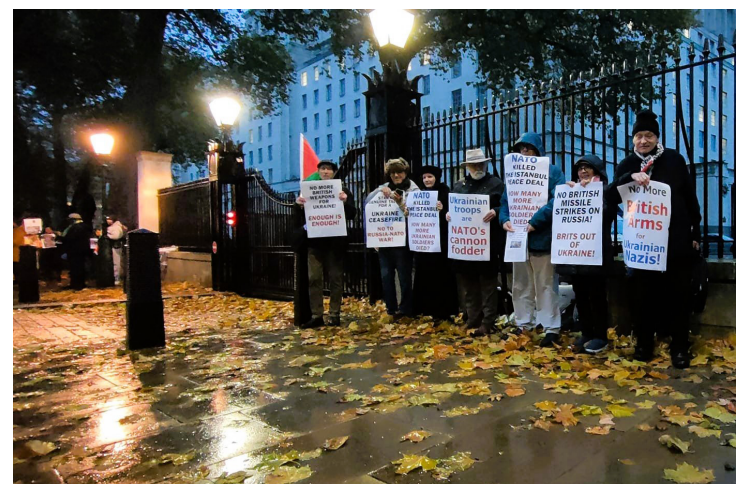
RMT is calling on the Scottish Government to intervene and instruct ScotRail to scrap its plans to cut vital ticket offices.

RMT is asking its members to sign and share the campaign's petition with colleagues, friends and family and on social media, and write to their MSPs to ask

them to lobby the Scottish Government to reverse the decision to let ScotRail go ahead with these cuts.

RMT is hosting an event for MSPs in the Scottish Parliament on 11th December from 12.30 to 1.30pm to brief them on our campaign. This will be followed by a rally outside the Scottish Parliament at 1.45pm.

Halt escalation in Ukraine



by New Worker correspondent

Demonstrators were in Whitehall on Saturday protesting against the supply of British long-range Storm Shadow missiles to the Ukrainians to

fire the flames of NATO's proxy war against Russia. The picket opposite the Prime Minister's residence in Downing Street was organised by the International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity campaign, which has been supporting the people of the Donbas and the anti-fascist Ukrainian resistance on the street since 2014.

Meanwhile Jeremy Corbyn's Independent Alliance parliamentary bloc has sent out an open letter, endorsed by CND and some union leaders, condemning the use of the new missiles supplied

by Britain and the USA to the Ukrainian regime and calling for an end to escalation and the start of negotiations with Russia to end the conflict in eastern Europe.

The letter that was published

continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

in the *Guardian* said: “We are deeply concerned about the escalation in Ukraine. In response to British-made Storm Shadow missiles fired into Kursk, just days after Ukraine used the US’s army tactical missile systems (ATACMS) to attack Bryansk, reports indicate that Russia has now launched intercontinental missiles into southern Ukraine. This rapid escalation seriously threatens an all-out military confrontation with Russia and NATO. The risk of a nuclear attack cannot be ruled out.

“The British government has to take responsibility for its actions and these terrible consequences. With hundreds of thousands already killed and injured, securing an end to this horrific conflict is crucial. We call on Joe Biden and Keir Starmer to halt this escalation and secure talks with Russia and Ukraine. Diplomacy and dialogue, not military escalation, are the only viable paths to a peaceful settlement in the region.”

The letter was signed by the five Independent Alliance MPs – Jeremy Corbyn, Ayoub Khan, Shockat Adam, Iqbal Mohamed and Adnan Hussain, as well as maverick Labour MP Diane Abbott. Other endorsers included PCS general secretary Fran Heathcote, RMT President Alex Gordon, Lindsey German, the convenor of the Stop the War Coalition, CND general secretary Sophie Bolt and the musician Brian Eno.

Clean energy co-operation with Vietnam

by New Worker correspondent

There is a huge potential for the UK and Vietnam to enhance co-operation in clean energy, as both countries have set ambitious goals for carbon neutrality moving towards a sustainable future, experts have said.

At the United Nations COP29 climate change conference in the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan earlier in the month, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a new climate target: to reduce the country’s emissions by 81 per cent against 1990 levels by 2035 – an update from the previous Conservative government’s 78 per cent goal.

Labour came to power over the summer with a bold agenda to cut bills, create jobs and deliver security with cheaper, zero-carbon electricity by 2030 to help make Britain a clean-energy superpower.

To achieve this mission, the UK aims to quadruple offshore wind to a target of 55GW by 2030 and more than triple solar power to 50GW. It also aims to at least double its onshore wind capacity to 35GW, build new nuclear projects, and invest in carbon capture and storage.

According to the UK National Energy System Operator (NESO), clean power is a huge challenge but it is achievable for the UK by 2030. “It will involve an investment programme averaging £40 billion or more annually, which, with the right policy mix, can be delivered without increasing costs for consumers, without compromising security of supply, and while bringing local economic and job opportunities,” NESO’s report stated.

As for Vietnam, at COP26 in 2021 Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính announced the country’s commitments to phase out coal power generation and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Although this is considered an ambitious goal for Vietnam, the country is actively leading the decarbonisation effort in the Asia-Pacific region, with an impressive deployment of renewable energy in recent years.

Vietnam issued a national strategy on green growth in 2021 and included the net zero target in its National Climate Change Strategy in July 2022.

Notably, Vietnam signed the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) with the UK and other nations to raise \$15.5 billion to further support its net zero 2050 goal with a focus on transition away from coal. Vietnam aims for renewable energy to comprise 48 per cent of the country’s energy mix by 2030 and up to 71 per cent by 2050.

This is an ambitious shift for Vietnam’s energy mix away from coal and heavily weighted

towards renewables and new technologies, underpinning the Vietnamese government’s international commitments to reach net zero by 2050.

The World Bank estimated in 2022 that Vietnam may need an additional investment of about \$368 billion by 2040, equivalent to 6.8 per cent of GDP per year, to achieve its net zero target.

Britain and Vietnam are among more than 100 economies, or about 80 per cent of the world’s greenhouse gas emitters, which have pledged to reach net zero. It is, therefore, necessary for Vietnam to enhance international co-operation on the pathway towards net zero. Achieving the target will require vast resources in terms of finance, infrastructure and labour in the context that domestic resources remain limited.

Vũ Việt Thành from the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that Vietnam needs to closely watch the UK government’s implementation of its commitment to net zero.

The new UK government has set an ambitious goal to become a clean energy superpower by 2030, Thành said. “The ambition has opened significant space for co-operation between Vietnam and the UK in renewable energy development,” he said, adding that the Ministry of Industry and Trade is actively working with the UK to raise resources for the enforcement of the Just Energy programme.

With the UK–Vietnam Free Trade Agreement and the UK’s

forthcoming accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership expected in December, there is a significant potential to promote bilateral co-operation in renewable energy, including offshore wind power, energy storage, smart grid and high-quality workforce training.

The British Consul-General in Ho Chi Minh City, Alexandra Smith, says that Britain has always been a partner of Vietnam in its energy transition. She spoke at a workshop about UK experience with the renewable energy supply chain held in late October, during a visit from a green energy trade mission including 17 British enterprises in offshore wind, green hydrogen and energy storage.

According to UK Deputy Trade Commissioner for South-east Asia, Rhiannon Harries, climate change is a global challenge that requires global solutions and global partnerships. Vietnam has set a clear goal to accelerate its transition to renewable energy and “the UK is well placed to support Vietnam’s clean energy ambitions”, she said.

Last month Vietnam’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office signed a memorandum of understanding on environment and climate, which is expected to contribute to the global net zero goal.

British enterprises are also showing interest in renewable energy projects in Vietnam, particularly offshore wind energy.

**20 years ago
this week
in the New Worker**

26th November 2004

FIRST it was Georgia. Po-western factions ready to sell out to the Washington camp, orchestrated by their foreign masters, sweep to power on the crest of a popular revolt, hooliganism and riots. The Otpor Factor. Now it is the Ukraine.

But there is a difference, Georgia’s Eduard Shevardnadze had alienated his people against him, whereas the Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, has just over

half of the electorate on his side.

Otpor, the Serbian word for ‘resistance’ is the name given to the activists who ousted Slobodan Milošević from power in Belgrade. The hand of Otpor in Georgia was open. Georgian activist and Washington stooge Giga Bokeria liaised with this group in Serbia and welcomed them for a return visit to Tbilisi, which was financed by George Soro’s Open Society. Bokeria in turn is financed by the Open Society and by the US-government-backed Eurasia Institute.

There are startling similarities between the events leading to the overthrow of Milošević and Shevardnadze and Kiev today with a handful of diehards fuelled by a few busloads of hooligans from western Ukraine.

The West’s reaction to the elections in Ukraine is yet another example of interference in the internal affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) – the former Soviet Union apart from the Baltic states). The condemnation of the findings of the Central Electoral

Commission gives rise to the notion that collective hysteria breaks out in the West every time the stooge they try to place fails to make the grade. And that stooge Viktor Yushchenko, the defeated centre-right candidate and former premier between 1999 and 2001. Where was this condemnation during the appalling electoral fraud committed in the USA on 2nd November?

The defeated opposition candidate, Viktor Yushchenko is a danger to Ukraine, which has an innate tendency to polarise between East and West, Russian speakers and Ukrainian-speakers, Russian Orthodox and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches, pro-Moscow and anti-Moscow sentiments. Calling on his supports to take to the streets amounts to insurrection and nothing short of an incitement to revolt.

In the event the policies of the Prime Minister Yanukovich swayed the population to vote for a continuation of the same course. They rejected the hot-headed policies preached by Yushchenko by 49.72 to 46.7 per cent. Talk of electoral fraud by American observers is risible after

Bye Bye Biden...

by Timothy Bancroft-Hinchey

Marcus Licinius Crassus...2077 years ago. Desperate to make his mark and find a foe large enough to defeat and ride back into Rome in triumph, this idiot led his legions to almost total destruction against the Parthian Empire (modern Iraq and Iran), arrogantly ignoring the advice of his officers to take an alternative route, refusing the offer of thousands of infantry and archers from Armenia and then marching into the desert with no protection against the combined force of powerful Parthian cataphracts, heavily armed cavalry and light cavalry, led by General Surena.

Crassus was too old at 62 to devise and follow an adequate strategy; he totally under-estimated the strength of his adversary, miscalculated the time and place to attack, had no factors in his favour (infantry exposed in an open space fighting against cavalry which surrounded them and fired arrows from all sides). His chief adviser, Ariamnes, who he trusted blindly, was in fact in the pay of the Parthians. The result of Crassus' crass stupidity?

His army of 35,000 heavy infantry, 4,000 light infantry, 10,000 cavalry was decimated. Most were killed (20,000), several thousand were sold as slaves (10,000), some it is believed to China and the rest (20,000) limped back to the frontier of the Roman Empire. Before he was killed, Crassus saw the head of his son Publius displayed on a pole.

Crassus was a despicable man of immense greed, to the point where he would send teams of criminals to commit arson in Rome, burning blocks of apartments to the ground, to then buy up the land cheaply

and build his own blocks. His greed and recklessness came to a head at Carrhae and his surname, Crassus, coined the phrase "crass stupidity".

Comparing Biden to Crassus insults the Roman

Comparing Biden to Crassus is indeed a tremendous insult to the Roman. Like Crassus, the American has not aged well and has just committed an act of crass stupidity, nay, Bidenesque idiocy. Unlike Crassus, Biden does not possess an iota of Kudos and has zero gravitas and negative emotional intelligence. Crassus was at least able to muster a personal army of seven

settled by Moscow with the Minsk Agreements, namely keeping Ukraine intact and with the Russian-speaking population in the east allowed to keep their religion, culture, traditions and political parties. Kiev signed the agreement then someone (guess who?) said OK now you will not implement it. Fascist forces wearing swastikas and worshipping Hitler appeared in Ukraine. Groups of armed thugs shouted 'Death to Russians and Jews' on the streets. Fascist massacres of Russian-speaking Ukrainians took place. Was this all Ukraine's doing or someone from the outside egging Kiev on and using the Ukrainians as pawns in a cowardly proxy war against Russia?

Biden has always been



legions (35 to 42,000 troops) with his own money. What has Biden managed to do?

He was part of the team, with Barack 'Obomber', which destroyed US foreign policy for decades to come in invading Libya and sending the country with the highest Human Development Index in Africa back to the Stone Age, crawling with terrorists and studded with slave markets. Biden gave his support to the invasion of Iraq. Then he said he was duped. Hardly an excuse, is it?

As for Ukraine, Google up Hunter Biden, Ukraine, Shale Gas, Buresma, transgenic cereals.

The Obomber/Biden administration was in power when the Ukraine issue was

insolent, abrasive, unpleasant and rude. He's a lightweight, diabolical guttersnipe, inconsequential and not very intelligent. In short he comes across as a silly little man who is wholly and totally out of his depth. We saw this in his idiotic act of self-destruction yelling Bring it ON to Trump then making a public spectacle of himself with an exemplary show of idiocy, ineptitude and clownery, before being forced to step aside by his own party. His political career ends in total, snivelling humiliation. Biden is the paragon of failure.

His legacy is the election result in which Trump and his party won everything there was to win. Not a morsel was left of the Biden sand castle.

Snivelling coward

Now as regards his foreign policy, the pinnacle of Biden's idiocy comes in his latest manic decision to allow Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia with American weapons. Is this supposed to de-escalate, or what?

No, it is a clear sign that this man who claims to be a Catholic is indeed apparently a psychopathic murderer whose sole intent is to kill or maim as many Russians as possible before he takes his unwanted, disgusting and useless presence to the hole he crawled out from and waits for that gentleman with the fork, horns and tail to call him to inhabit that white-hot corner of Hell reserved for his good self.

Russia, means that the foreign powers supplying the weaponry are directly involved in an attack on Russia. How did the USA respond when Soviet missiles were being set up in Cuba?

What Biden has done is to provoke Russia into responding. So the first victim will be Ukrainians, which he has used as pawns from the beginning and if Moscow or St Petersburg are hit, what is the difference between America striking these cities and a retaliation targeting Washington or New York for example? None.

So now what? For a start Ukraine has a limited supply of these American missiles

Secondly, the American lap-dogs in Europe will obediently follow suit like yapping chihuahuas.

But in reality... out of six missiles fired, five were shot out of the sky and one was deflected. This provides useful target practice for Russia's air defence systems and valuable experience for the future.

However that future, with Biden, is fortunately only two months long. After that we can hope for a period of more sane international relations, without fascists strutting around committing massacres. However, Biden has already written his political epitaph in great big shining neon letters and like Crassus, has provided the world's languages with a catchphrase: an act of Bidenesque idiocy.

In conclusion, the only reason why Biden forced himself upon the American people was to hold Trump back for four years. And what has he achieved? Nothing. He ran out of Afghanistan with his tail between his legs leaving a trail of excrement and has used the Ukrainians as cannon fodder in his act of provocation against Russia, a country he so evidently hates. But hate and Biden go together. Bye Bye, Biden...good riddance.

Trade war, Trump and decaying capitalism

by William Briggs

The world is bracing itself for the coming war. No a shot will be fired, at least not immediately. No troops will be paraded, but the incoming Trump administration has already declared war: trade war. The president-elect has announced that he will be imposing tariffs on all imported goods from all countries. He has declared war on the global economy but has marked out China as enemy number one. It is a war to preserve US dominance and for the survival of a moribund capitalism.

China is to be hit with 60 per cent tariffs. There will be a response. The tsunami of economic devastation can only be imagined. Global GDP will shrink. Economies that are barely registering any signs of life will be stricken, and those who will suffer the most will be the working class.

The International Monetary Fund has predicted a global economic shrinkage in GDP terms of as much as seven per cent if such a trade war globalises. Global recession, global depression is facing the world. In seeking to shore up US capital, global capitalism will be directly threatened.

Smaller, more subservient economies will be eager to show their vassal status in the hope

that they might be spared the harsh rod of American economic policy. The Australian government and capitalist class are desperately trying to either accommodate themselves to US interests, or at least to calm the nerves of the public by downplaying the potential fallout.

Even if this wish were to be granted and Trump gave a loyal ally some 'exemption' from

target of the US 'attack', will almost inevitably counter-attack. In all likelihood Beijing will impose sanctions of its own, thereby limiting US access to supply chains. Wang Dong, director of Peking University's Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding, made it clear that "this is a two-way process. China will of course try to engage with President Trump

hawks to important economic, security, defence, and foreign policy roles.

Trump is fixated on an economic practice that is nationalist and entirely statist. The fact that economic nationalism is on the rise is a reaction to globalisation. Globalisation was an attempt by capital to find a way out of the destructive "tendency for the rate of profit to fall." Once again Marx

degrees. Biden too was introducing new tariffs on China, especially in the area of green technologies, so vital for the global economy and for the planet.

Billions of dollars in arms shipments, missiles, planes, and materiel have poured into Taiwan over the past four years. Biden repeatedly stated that he would intervene, militarily, in the event of 'conflict'

in a more lethal form, will not have gone away.

The USA believes that it must confront, contain and roll-back China. A socialist China with a strong economic base is anathema to the USA. China must be contained in order for the USA to maintain supremacy, both ideologically, economically, and globally. Whether a Republican or Democrat occupies the White House does not change that primal world view.

That same world view, coupled with the reality that capitalism is coming inexorably to an end game, make trade war inevitable. And, as 19th Century French economist and politician Claude-Frederic Bastiat once said "if goods don't cross borders, soldiers will." He might also have said, 'if you want peace, promote free trade'. But then capitalism does not want 'peace.' It wants domination and wars to feed the military industrial complex.

Guardian
Australian communist weekly



economic sanction, the Australian economy would still suffer significantly. China is Australia's biggest trading partner. The big-hitters in terms of export dollars to China are in the extractive industries. If China's economy should contract, then it would need less raw materials from Australia. Finding alternative customers for minerals, iron ore, and coal on the global market is fraught with difficulty.

China, as the prime

in whatever way, try to negotiate, but if, as happened in 2018, nothing can be achieved through talks and we have to fight, we will resolutely defend China's rights and interests".

What tends to get lost in the bourgeois media's analysis of Trump and his economic policies is that most of the tariffs he originally put in place remained under Biden. Things will get a whole lot worse. This can be seen from the appointment of anti-China

is proven correct. The waves that crash against the seawall of capitalism cannot be turned back.

Capitalism, as Marx described, is not simply crisis-riven but threatened with eventual breakdown. We are experiencing this and this drives the USA to war with China. That war is fought on many fronts. Economics is one important battleground.

Trump and his presidency spell danger for the region. Biden, for his part, differed only by

in Taiwan. What we can expect is that this position will be maintained and worsened as Trump runs the line that the USA must come first and that there can be "peace through strength".

The differences between the two administrations will be 'proven' by a string of analysts and commentators. This or that policy or decision might seem to be different, but the actual reasons, the motivations for the US drive to war, first economic but potentially

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Fast forward: China's high-speed rail network

by Li Chang'an

The operating mileage of People's China's high-speed railway now exceeds 46,000 kilometres, nearly 30,000 miles. Needless to say, some Western media outlets have slandered China's high-speed railway, questioning the necessity of such an extensive network. They cannot accept the remarkable advantages of China's high-speed railway system in terms of technology, construction efficiency and quality. Their purpose is nothing more than to smear China's development achievements and attempt to "regain respect" for Western countries in the field of global infrastructure construction by belittling others. In light of reality, such smears are absurd.

In the late 20th Century, China proposed a vision for high-speed rail. After 2000, the construction plan was launched and put into action. In just over 20 years, China has developed the world's leading high-speed railway network, with high-speed railway mileage increasing from 0 to 46,000 kilometres, ranking first in the world. It is the only country to have realised commercial operation of high-speed railway at 350 kilometres per hour. The total operating railway mileage has exceeded 160,000 kilometres, of which the high-speed railway



mileage has surpassed 46,000 kilometres, an increase of 64.2 per cent and 392.2 per cent, respectively, compared to the end of 2012.

It has been proven that high-speed rail is a crucial accelerator for China's economy. As a large-scale infrastructure project, high-speed rail construction involves substantial investments in areas such as construction materials, machinery and electrical equipment, thereby significantly boosting these sectors. The considerable financial input not only directly promotes the development of upstream and downstream industries and creates numerous job opportunities, but also plays a significant role in stabilizing economic growth. According to statistics, every 100 million yuan (\$13.8 million) invested in high-speed rail can directly generate around 300 million yuan in investments in industries such as metallurgy,

construction and manufacturing, creating over 2,200 jobs. Additionally, high-speed rail construction drives technological innovation and upgrades in related sectors. Traditional industries like steel, cement and machinery manufacturing have continuously upgraded their technology and processes to enhance product quality and production efficiency.

Furthermore, high-speed rail generates remarkable exports. Statistics indicate that high-quality Belt & Road cooperation includes 26,300 kilometres of high-speed rail, accounting for 28.3 per cent of the global high-speed rail construction plan and 76 per cent of the total overseas high-speed rail mileage that China is expected to participate in. 2024 marks the first anniversary of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Indonesia since its operation, having already transported over 330,000

foreign passengers from 159 countries and regions.

In May 2024, the number of tourists in West Java surged by 94.84 percent compared to the previous month, while the number of visitors to Bandung increased by 10 to 15 percent this year. The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway has partnered with more than 10 tourism attractions in Bandung, significantly boosting hotel occupancy rates and restaurant revenues in the surrounding areas. According to official Indonesian data, between 2019 and 2023, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway project contributed approximately 86.5 trillion Indonesian Rupiah (\$5.4 billion) to the GDP of Jakarta and West Java.

Looking forward, there is immense potential to be tapped in China's high-speed rail. Many cities have yet to be connected by high-speed rail. More

railways are being constructed in economically developed and densely populated regions in southeastern China. As the development pattern characterized by metropolitan circles and urban agglomerations takes shape, city-level railways connecting major cities with surrounding areas are becoming one key focus of future railway construction. Adhering to the development of high-speed rail is a firm choice that aligns with China's development strategy and practical needs.

Global Times

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LETTERS

Dear Comrades

The Cornelius Cardew Concerts Trust (CCCT) condemns the thuggery exhibited by the organisation “UK Lawyers for Israel” (UKLFI) when it demanded that the CCCT cancel its concert *The World Stands with Palestine* on 15th November. The concert was to be held at Morley College to whom the UKLFI also wrote a threatening letter which the College did not think it could ignore.

Given the kind of hooligan attacks which the world had just witnessed carried out by Zionist thugs in Amsterdam, it is no wonder the College felt threatened. In its letter to the CCCT, the UKLFI declared: “Your event, which lauds Palestinian ‘resistance’, will be intimidating and offensive for any Jewish, Israeli or Zionist visitors.” It cites “possible breaches of the law” – the Terrorism Act 2000 (“supporting a proscribed organisation”), the Equality Act 2010 (“harassing Jews, Israelis or Zionists”) and Charity Commission guidelines (“presenting Hamas’ point of view”).

It is a well-known principle of international law, recently once again reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice, that to support the Palestinians’ right to resist their occupying power is neither a crime nor illegal. What is of concern is how the likes of the UKLFI – whose “Charitable Arm”, we are informed, is itself

under investigation by the Charity Commission – can run around threatening reprisals by quoting all these laws and attempt to intimidate those who host musical events, or any events in support of the Palestinian people’s resistance to genocide for that matter.

We recall how, on another occasion, all venues hosting cultural events which featured Russian musicians, artists, composers, dancers or other cultural personalities were told by Britain’s official circles to close down the performances on pain of draconian reprisals. Many were forced to close not because they supported what the government was doing but because of the hooligans threatening theatre and concert goers with violence against which the venues were not insured or protected.

Such attacks by Zionist hooligans against people of Arab origin is precisely what took place recently in Amsterdam which the BBC, Sky News and the *New York Times* managed to declare was an anti-Jewish pogrom – a statement also made by the Mayor of Amsterdam, which she had the courage to apologise for, once the irrefutable proof that it was Zionist thuggery became known by the public.

The laws quoted by the UKLFI to threaten reprisals have themselves been rejected time and time again by the hundreds of thousands of people across Britain who have stood up in defence of their right to speak out against the genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza by the Israeli occupying power and in support of the movement to resist occupation and the denial of the Palestinian people’s right to be.

Now that it is also known that the crime of starvation has been added

to the war crimes that the occupying power is committing against the people of Gaza, thuggery of the kind exhibited by UKLFI will not find acceptance in Britain either. It is an act of desperation of the kind that the people in this country oppose with all their being and always have, as indeed is the case with the peoples all over the world with whom we stand as one.

The threats and pernicious accusations of the UKLFI against the CCCT aim to spread fear. In this regard, they represent the latest tactic of the Zionists who are using lawyers in various countries to threaten people and silence their voice.

This is by no means an isolated example, with evidence of a considerable number of cases where organisations have cancelled events after threats from the UKLFI. Amongst others, a south London community centre felt obliged to cancel an event featuring Palestinian American poet Remi Kanazi.

Opposing such things is a matter of conscience, a matter of principle and a matter of heart.

The musicians and composers who organised this CCCT concert, have composed new music and organised to share their compositions and performances with the public. They have done so in deepest sympathy with the suffering Palestinian people and in response to their heroic struggle for their very existence. They reject this latest attempt to silence their music and their voices and to illegalise music itself through scaring composers and performers to remain silent and bullying the concert venue itself.

The Cornelius Cardew Concerts Trust informs the public that it is engaged in taking legal advice and that it will hold the concert

as soon as feasible despite the threats from the likes of the UKLFI.

The Concerts Trust has received broad and extensive support for its stand, with many expressions of outrage at the thuggery of this group whose aims are not in the least aligned with those of the people of this country.

The concert *The World Stands With Palestine* is consistent with the lofty ideals of humanity which the CCCT has always upheld. The CCCT is devoted to contributing to enlightenment and progress in every field, and stands firmly in the mainstream of human endeavour. Its objectives as a charity include encouraging the “greater understanding and appreciation of new music generally, and particularly British new music of which Cornelius Cardew was a pathfinder”, and “encouraging composers, particularly young composers, to write such new music for the public benefit”.

The concert *The World Stands With Palestine* stands firmly within those objectives. The CCCT calls on all to take a stand against the threats of reprisals from the “UK Lawyers for Israel”.

Stand with Palestine – it is a matter of conscience, principle and heart!

**Trustees
Cornelius Cardew Concerts Trust
London**

Dear Comrades

Your editorial [NW:2277, 8 Nov 2024], certainly did not disappoint. The deep state in the USA – in other words, corporate power – is the real victor of the US election. World domination (full-spectrum dominance) will continue to be the real American dream.

Trump and MAGA

continued on page 9...

Diary

Check the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Stop the War Coalition websites for emergency Gaza protests across the country.

UNTIL 30 DEC

People’s History Museum: Banner Exhibition, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER.

UNTIL APRIL 2025

Townsend Theatre Productions: *Behold Ye Ramblers*. Touring play by Neil Gore. See TTP website for details of venues.

UNTIL 15 JULY

Tate Britain: *Artists Against Fascism and War*. Exhibition at Millbank, London SW1P 4RG.

SAT 30 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: National Demonstration for Palestine. 12:30–16:30, Central London. Details TBA.

SAT 30 NOV

Scottish TUC: Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism march. Assemble 10:30 at McLennan Arch for 12:00 indoor rally at Adelaide Place, 209 Bath St, Glasgow G2 4HZ.

SAT 30 NOV

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil against US nuclear weapons returning to Britain. 12:00–14:00, RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 9PS.

SAT 30 NOV

Solidarity is the Political Version of Love: Book Talk & Panel. 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA. Book on Eventbrite.

SUN 1 DEC

Metropolitan New Worker Supporters Group: Screening of *Evita* and discussion on Peronism, 14:00 TBC, NCP Centre, Clapham Junction, London SE11.

TUE 3 DEC

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Protest at the Global Banking Summit. 07:15–08:30, Convene Sancroft, Rose Street, London EC4M 7DQ.

THUR 5 DEC

Marx Memorial Library: Defending Local Services & Democracy: Popular Mobilisation and the Working-Class Movement. 19:00, Online and in-person panel discussion. Book on MML website.

5 DEC UNTIL 25 JUL

Working Class Movement Library: Collectors, The Camera-man, The Poets and the Pits: Miners’ Strike 40th Anniversary Exhibition. Afternoons.

WED 11 DEC

Working Class Movement Library: Delivering Justice: Towards a History of Food Delivery Workers’ Organising. 18:30–20:00. Book on WCML website.

TUE 12 DEC

Labour Friends of Progressive Latin America: Trump – Hands off Latin America! 18:00, Online meeting. Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 25 JAN 2025

Scottish CND: Burns Peace Poetry Fundraiser. Details TBA.

SAT 1 FEB

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Annual General Meeting. 09:30–16:30, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1 4RL.

SAT 8 FEB

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Latin America Conference. 10:00, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BB. Details and tickets at latinamericaconference.co.uk

MON 14 APRIL–FRI 25 APRIL

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Camp protesting against US nuclear weapons returning to Britain. RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 9PS.

JUNE

Jarrow Rebel Town Festival. Tyne Street, Jarrow NE32.

The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday.

You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net

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Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

This week we've seen our SNP government pull one over Labour on winter fuel grants to pensioners. The Scottish government originally said they would match the UK government's decision to harshly means-test the winter fuel payment to older people in receipt of Pension Credit. Now they've pledged to help the poorest households meet their energy bills this year and promised all Scottish pensioners a winter fuel grant of at least £100 next year – with the poorest continuing to receive a £200 or £300 payment.

Next winter Scots will be entitled to a newly-devolved Pension Age Winter Heating Payment. Social Justice Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said: "This universal benefit – providing much-needed support not available anywhere else in the UK – will deliver support for all pensioner households as we had always intended to do before the UK government decision to means-test winter fuel payments and cut the funding available to support our new benefit in Scotland this winter by £147 million." She re-assured pensioners that: "We will not abandon older people this winter or any winter. We

will do our best to make sure no-one has to make a decision between heating and eating, and we will continue to protect pensioners."

The SNP minister also announced a £41m support package, with £20m in welfare funding for councils this financial year and £20m for the Warmer Homes Scotland Scheme. There will be a further £1m for social landlords and the third sector for homelessness prevention work.

Age Scotland chief executive Katherine Crawford said she was delighted at the news following the UK government's "disastrous" benefits cut. The £41m funding package, to be distributed through local authorities this year, was "positive", with four in 10 Scottish pensioners in fuel poverty. "It would have been absolutely fantastic to be in a position to reinstate the full winter fuel payment for pensioners in Scotland as of now, but we do appreciate that logistically that would just have not been possible," she said.

cians who could probably teach Machiavelli a thing or two.

This week we heard Patrick Harvie, the Green co-leader, denounce the First Minister for congratulating Donald Trump on his return to the Oval Office. The Greens have got form on this having already called on the SNP government to end their "special" relationship with the USA now that Trump's back in the saddle.

Sadly, Harvie is no Cicero. In a 'woke' rant Harvie said Trump was a misogynist, a climate denier, a convicted felon, a fraudster, a conspiracy monger and a racist. All indeed true. But nevertheless, petty and pointless. Congratulatory messages are like the Christmas cards we barely glance at on the mantelpiece. No wonder no-one listens to him...

Left on the shelf

One of the highlights of the week must, however, be the news that former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's favourite book has been removed from the Higher English reading list. The book is *Sunset Song* by Lewis Grassie Gibbon,

the pen-name of James Leslie Mitchell who was a member in the old British Socialist Party that later merged with the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1920. Voted Scotland's Favourite Novel in 2016, Madame Sturgeon wrote the introduction to the new hardback edition in 2020. She then declared that *Sunset Song*, first published in 1932, was "without a shadow of doubt" her favourite book. "My conclusion is that the love I feel for *Sunset Song* is not just an appreciation of its considerable literary quality; it is as much, maybe more so, a reflection of the profound impact it had on me at a formative time of my life. In no small way, I owe my love of literature to *Sunset Song*," the former SNP leader said.

Sadly this is no longer the opinion of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, which has dropped the book, amongst others, following a survey that gathered more than 2,500 responses from teachers and learners. The survey showed that *Sunset Song* was the least popular of all the higher texts. More than 60 per cent of teachers and students surveyed thought it should be replaced.

...continued from page 8

will, of course, only pull the USA further apart. It does not automatically follow however, that socialism/communism will emerge from this scenario.

No, socialism/communism will not, obviously, drop from the tree of capitalism. It will surely have to be fought for before it can be achieved.

Marx was well aware of what constructive and creative roles revolutionary socialist/communist parties could play in that regard. I think there is no greater mistake than to consider Marx as a fatalist who deemed the triumph of socialism/communism to be inevitable, apart from the effort of humans to achieve it.

Marx was not a fatalist, though he has often been misinterpreted in that sense. For example, he denounced the fallacy of mechanistic determinism on which the doctrine of fatalism is based. Also, he insisted that people make their own history and emphasised the creative function of a revolutionary socialist/communist party in the struggle for power. Furthermore, he said that human history is determined only in the sense that people must make it by acting within the limits set by the environment we all have to deal with and not in the sense that it is made for us, apart from our own endeavours. The Marxian philosophy has to be put forward not as ultimate and changeless truth but as a guide and stimulus to action – in effect, as the philosophy appropriate to the needs of the men and women for whom it was formulated.

A McKerr
Fife

The home of Scottish democracy

Holyrood is in the heart of Edinburgh, the "Athens of the North". But unlike the ancient Greek agora where the foundations of Western philosophy were laid and St Paul preached in vain, the Scottish parliament is a dull place enlivened only by the banter of back-stabbing politi-



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The British volunteers who fought apartheid

by Theo Russell

London Recruits (2024). Dir: Gordon Main. 12A.

A major new documentary has just been released and is now showing at community cinemas around the country. But *London Recruits* is unlike any other documentary I've seen. In fact, it is more nail biting than any thriller film I've seen, and extremely powerful and moving. It tells the story of the British volunteers who were recruited to travel to South Africa to distribute propaganda for the African National Congress (ANC) and to deliver funds.

The operation was mounted at an extremely difficult time for the struggle against the Western backed and armed



Apartheid regime, when the ANC had been driven completely underground.

The regime's police were extremely brutal, and anyone arrested was likely to face beatings, torture, and possible 'accidental' death or execution for any

involvement with the ANC. Its spies were everywhere, even in the black townships – even London was crawling with them at the time.

The ANC realised that the most urgent task was to tell the black masses that they and the struggle were

still alive.

Under the leadership of Oliver Tambo, the ANC's leader in exile, and Ronnie Kasrils, a founding member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, they developed the technique of 'bucket bombs' that scattered hun-

dreds of ANC leaflets in areas where black South Africans congregated. Eventually they were able to set off multiple bombs in the main South African cities on the same day, creating an upsurge in the struggle and panic among

the authorities. Some of the 'recruits' fell into the hands of the regime and faced torture and prison sentences.

The film expertly combines interviews, archive footage and re-enactments – but it needs to be pointed out that Chris Hani, the leader of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe (the ANC's armed wing) who was assassinated by a fascist Polish immigrant in 1993, was played by an actor.

There is an excellent website for the film – londonrecruits.com/ – that also has a map of local screenings in England and Wales, and if you click on 'GET INVOLVED' you can receive updates on screenings and future releases. Catch this film if you can – it's the best I've seen for several years.

The truth about Xinjiang

by New Worker correspondent

A meeting organised by Friends of Socialist China at the Marx Memorial Library in London last week heard eyewitness accounts from a group of activists, journalists, publishers and business-people from a tour of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the far west of China.

Xinjiang is the size of Iran with a population of 25 million and has, of course, been the target of a Western black propaganda op alleging slave labour and mass 're-education' camps, and the systematic suppression of Islam.

It is a multi-ethnic region made up of 44 per cent Uyghurs and 42 per cent Han Chinese as well as many other groups in-

cluding Kazakhs, Mongols, Kirghiz and Tajiks.

There are 50 minority-language newspapers published in Xinjiang, including the Xinjiang Economic Daily, which is well known across China, and TV and radio are broadcast in the Mandarin, Uyghur, Kazakh and Mongolian languages.

From the 1990s until around 2015 Western-backed terrorists waged an extremely violent campaign in Xinjiang that claimed the lives of thousands of civilians.

David Peat from Iskra Books said: "A major goal of the USA and its allies is to block the development of transport links through Xinjiang with China's 'Belt and Road' initiative. The West stepped up its propaganda and sanctions against China after

President Obama's Asia Pivot, essentially when it was realised that the rapidly growing economic competition from China outweighed the massive profits Western businesses had made by outsourcing their factories to China."

Ali Al-Assam from Friends of Socialist China said that: "The Jihadist terrorism began in Xinjiang at almost exactly the same time as in Iraq, and was linked to the massive promotion of the minority Wahhabist Muslim sect's ideology around the world through finance and the training of Imams, including in Xinjiang."

"The Communist Party of China uses Marxism as a tool for uniting the people, and for 're-introducing' the unity which had already existed in the province."

"Traditional Islam has

also been preserved in Xinjiang, where some of the world's largest Islamic libraries can be found. While Islam makes up just under 60 per cent of believers in Xinjiang, about a third are Buddhists, along with Daoist and Christian minorities.

"Trade unions in Britain have made a very important contribution towards engaging with China and countering the Western media's lies and fake news about slave labour in Xinjiang."

"Many people in Muslim countries are aware of the West's attempts to destabilise Xinjiang and make comparisons with the West's imposition of wars and sanctions on the people of the Arab world."

Roger McKenzie, International Editor of the Morning Star, said Xinji-

ang "was one of the most comfortable places I have ever been as a black person. We felt absolutely free to talk to anyone in the streets, markets and mosques". He recounted experiencing racism in almost every country he had visited, including in every city he had visited in the USA.

"We saw a society trying to build a complete different society, one which most people in Britain wouldn't be able to understand. The media reports we see are straightforward lies and pure propaganda."

"Almost every day we saw huge festivals celebrating the different cultures of Xinjiang in the streets."

"Xinjiang is one of the least developed and poorest of China's regions, and despite hundreds of billions of dollars in state

investment, there is still a way to go.

"While the West projects fake news about Xinjiang, they don't seem to have any problems with slave labour in countries like the Republic of the Congo, where they are happy to invest huge sums in mineral extraction. But it's important to remember that there are many on the left in Britain who support these fabricated claims."

These accounts are fully supported in recent YouTube travel videos made by British visitors to Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi. While Urumqi looks similar to any modern world city, with a high level of use of social media and digital payments, these videos also show a thriving music and dance culture on the streets, both modern and traditional.

Who's a threat?

by Nathan Barnes

Michael Moore, in his excellent film *Bowling For Columbine*, remarks upon the culture of fear in the USA. It is the most discernible link to and justification for the country's equally prevalent gun culture.

Moore, you will remember, did some elementary but telling on-the-spot research on the high murder rate, multi-locked doors, suspicion and fear on the part of people in Michigan compared with the unlocked doors, openness, lack of fear and low murder rate of people living just over the border in Canada.

With more guns than people, and backed by its super-power arsenal, the US population should be the most secure and least frightened in the world. Instead they are the most fearful. They are afraid of their neighbours, strangers, foreigners, the UN, the police, the Devil and aliens from outer space.

This should not surprise anyone. After decades of assiduous promotion of a culture of acquiring wealth by fair means or foul, people can hardly be blamed for assuming that others must covet what they have.

At the same time, and with equal assiduousness, capitalism denies that society develops according to scientific laws. Instead it cultivates the view that society is subject to totally ran-

dom acts, that crime and violence are arbitrary, indiscriminate and entirely unpredictable.

In such a seemingly chaotic world, with these messages drummed into them all the time, it is understandable that American citizens, who have a startlingly high rate of superstition and an appallingly low standard of general

the end of the Second World War.

The overthrow of socialism in the USSR removed the most generally useful of all the 'threats' – the 'Soviet threat'. This was paradoxically the most 'visible' but also the most mythical. That it was mythical did not diminish its usefulness, however.

While ordinary US citizens welcomed the

their economic clout backed up by the military might of an unchallenged superpower, were united in their desire to keep the military budget at record levels.

They found "their most persuasive excuse for inflating the military budget since the Soviet threat" in the 11th September [9/11] suicide airliner bombings of the World Trade Centre

as viable 'threats' according to the previous ways of assessing a threat. So, the Pentagon, the State Department and other relevant US agencies changed the very definition of what constitutes a 'threat'.

As US writer Diana Johnstone puts it in *Fools' Crusade: Yugoslavia, NATO and Western Delusions*: "From its pinnacle of power, the

ity to pose any sort of threat. ... Here is the bottom line to 'globalisation,' and it signifies world economic domination by military means. ...

"The pretext is flexible: Harboured terrorists, building weapons of mass destruction, or 'humanitarian catastrophe' – all can be used to justify bombing as part of an unfolding strategy of global control."

But there is a flaw in this grand design: it is impossible for capitalism to control all sources of information, to mould and manipulate all opinion, to silence or sideline all dissenting views. People's own life experiences teach them about the different class allegiances of corporations and working people.

Many of them never succumbed to the paranoia and patriotic fervour whipped up. For example, tens of thousands took to the streets in the mass rallies and marches against the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

For those partaking in protests, like thousands of others around the world who demonstrated on the same day, the real threat comes from their own government and the corporations that back it. The 'Pentagon threat' and the 'CIA threat' are the ones that they find most fearsome.

And, unlike the 'Soviet threat' of yore, those threats are very real indeed...

Guardian
Australian communist weekly



• Islamophobia: the hate campaign in the USA.

education, should be so susceptible to fear and paranoia.

It is equally understandable that the capitalist ruling class fosters that fear and paranoia for its own benefit.

US ruling circles have used various mythical 'threats' to justify hiking the military budget, or the FBI's or the CIA's budgets, ever since

removal of the 'Soviet threat' and looked to a 'peace dividend' wherein previous military spending would be diverted to socially useful projects, the big corporations looked around for a new 'threat'.

Corporations with Pentagon contracts, the most lucrative sort you can get, and corporations who found it beneficial to have

and the Pentagon. The 'terrorist threat' emerged.

But terrorists are, almost by definition, relatively small scale, and while they helped to generate fear, they could not really be used to justify a world-dominating military. So 'rogue states' were added to the mix.

But even these failed to measure up

United States can scarcely perceive any tangible threats.

"Instead of feeling safer, the 'defence' planners imagine potential threats everywhere. These go beyond invisible 'terrorists' or recalcitrant 'rogues'.

"From now on, the United States fears the very potential of anybody, anywhere, to have the capabil-

Playing with fire on the Ukrainian front

The Russians have confirmed new Ukrainian attacks with NATO missiles in the Russian rear. Kiev should now get ready for Russia's revenge.

Last week the Ukrainians launched two attacks with Western weapons on targets in the Kursk region. On 23rd November, the Ukrainian military launched five US-made ATACMS missiles on the area of deployment of the S-400 anti-aircraft missile division near the village of Lotarevka located 37 kilometres north-west of Kursk. But Russian missile defences destroyed three ATACMS missiles. The two other American missiles reached their target. The Russian military confirmed that a radar installation

was damaged as a result of the strikes and there were casualties among the military personnel.

The second attack took place on 25th November. The Ukrainians fired eight ATACMS missiles at the Kursk-Vostochny airfield located near the town of Khalino. Russian air defence systems deployed in the area destroyed seven missiles. One got through. As a result of the attack with cluster missiles the falling fragments slightly wounded two Russian servicemen and the airfield infrastructure was slightly damaged.

After the Russian military officially acknowledged Ukrainian strikes with Western missiles, it launched a retaliatory strike

with a Oreshnik medium-range ballistic missile on the Yuzhmash plant in Dnipro. On the same day, Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the people confirming the strikes and revealing details about the weapon. It was a clear sign to NATO warmongers and their puppet Kiev regime. But Washington said that "the launch of Russian Oreshnik missile would not have a deterrent effect on Washington's policy in Ukraine." After a couple of days, the Armed Forces of Ukraine launched a new attack with ATACMS missiles on the Kursk region, and two days later they repeated it.

The official acknowledgment of new Ukrainian strikes by the Russian mil-

itary is no longer an act of military propaganda but a clear warning to Ukraine.

Russian revenge may have a much more devastating effect than the

strike of Oreshnik with conventional warheads.

South Front



• Kenyan communists demonstrated their solidarity with Ukrainian anti-fascists at their 2nd Congress in Nairobi this month. They declared their solidarity with the democrats and anti-fascists in Ukraine and the Palestinian people resisting Zionist aggression.

What ICC warrants against Israel really mean

by Monica Moorehead

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on 21st November for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister, Yoav Gallant, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza. The charges address crimes that began on 8th October 2023, the day after the heroic Al-Aqsa Flood offensive initiated by Hamas. The war crimes in question continued up until 20th May 2024, when the ICC's prosecutor first

made the requests for the warrants based on overwhelming evidence produced by South African officials during hearings at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The warrants state that the ICC found "reasonable grounds" against these two war criminals who authorised the Israeli forces to carry out non-stop airstrikes and bombings against a defenceless Palestinian civilian population resulting in the deaths and maiming of hundreds of thousands of people, a large percentage of them children. Civilian infrastructure, especially hos-

pitals, schools and historic cultural sites along with whole residential areas have been decimated for over a year now, with no end in sight.

The warrants also accuse Netanyahu and Gallant of the slow and painful deaths from forced starvation and the famine that has gripped northern Gaza and other parts of occupied Palestine.

Both the Israeli army and fascist Zionist settlers have destroyed and blocked the vast majority of humanitarian aid from reaching the besieged population for months.

It comes as no surprise

that both the Israeli and US governments have falsely denounced the warrants as being "anti-Semitic", a charge meant to create a smokescreen for the ongoing genocide the war criminals continue to carry out.

What the warrants signal is that the 125 countries which signed onto the ICC have the option to arrest Netanyahu and Gallant if these two war criminals set foot in any of these countries. The ICC does not have a police force that can carry out this task.

Along with several other countries, the USA and Israel are not signatories to the ICC. While symbolic at

best, these warrants are an embarrassment to the apartheid state of Israel and its biggest ally, the US 'Genocide Joe' administration, and will no doubt lead to the further isolation of Netanyahu's heinous, fragile regime, unprecedented in the existence of the Zionist state.

Mayor Abdullah Hammoud of Dearborn in Michigan has stated that Netanyahu and Gallant will be arrested if they come to his city. "Other cities should declare the same," the mayor posted on X. Dearborn has the largest percentage of Arab residents of any city in

the USA.

In the meantime, the global movement must continue to vehemently demand, with all forms of mass protests and direct actions, an end to this racist ethnic cleansing by demanding that the USA and its imperialist allies, including Germany, cease sending weapons to Israel.

At the same time, the movement must also show solidarity with the heroic Palestinian Resistance, which is not slowing down one iota to wait for any arrest warrants to be implemented.

Workers World (USA)